

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-11. (Cancelled).

12. (New) A method for managing configuration of a network in a management centre, said network having a plurality of target objects, said method comprising:

elaborating a model of the network to be managed;
identifying a plurality of target objects to be configured in the network;
validating the changes to be made upon configuration of said plurality of target objects; and, if all changes have been validated:
finding a sequence of target routers associated with said target objects that provides continuous connectivity to said management centre; and
configuring each of said target routers.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said model is based on the CIM (Common Information Model) schema.

14. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said identification step includes identifying direct target objects and indirect target objects.

15. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said validation step includes checking the compliance of the changes to be made upon configuration with a predetermined set of rules.

16. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said network is an IP based mobile access network.

17. (New) An apparatus for managing configuration of a network, said apparatus being located in a management centre, said network having a plurality of target objects, said apparatus comprising:

- means for elaborating a model of the network to be managed;
- means for identifying a plurality of target objects to be configured in the network;
- means for validating the changes to be made upon configuration of said plurality of target objects;
- means for finding a sequence of target routers associated with said target objects that provides continuous connectivity to said management centre; and
- means for configuring each of said target routers.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said model is based on the CIM (Common Information Model) schema.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said identification means are adapted to identify direct target objects and indirect target objects.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said validation means are adapted to check the compliance of the changes to be made upon configuration with a predetermined set of rules.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said network is an IP based mobile access network.